

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1461) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to register my opposition to H.R. 1461 the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, due to recently add provisions that restrict non-profit organizations from receiving affordable housing funds if they engage in nonpartisan voter registration activities.

On May 25, 2005, the Financial Services Committee reported the GSE bill with strong bipartisan support. I supported moving the bill because it took necessary steps toward expanding homeownership for American families.

However, in an effort to bring the bill to the floor, Republicans altered the language that created an affordable housing trust fund. Under the Republican language, controversial limitations were included to restrict the receipt of the funds by nonprofit organizations. Specifically, the language prohibits nonprofit organizations, including religious groups, from applying for and receiving grants if they engage in, or maintain an affiliation with any organization that engages in, nonpartisan voter registration within the 12 months preceding the application or during the duration of the grant.

This restrictive language has never been debated by the Financial Services Committee, despite the fact that its implications warrant careful study. For instance, the provisions raise significant constitutional questions because they place restrictions on the First Amendment right to affiliate. They also directly contradict current voter registration laws by discouraging civic participation in the democratic process.

Moreover, I am extremely concerned that this language will exempt qualified non-profit groups from providing much needed affordable housing services across the country. The Financial Services Committee had taken great strides in this bill to increase homeownership through the creation of an affordable housing trust fund. Yet, this language throws our bipartisan efforts aside, the impact of which will be felt by the low income, elderly and disabled.

As the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act moves forward through the legislative process, I hope that the Senate and conference committee recognize the harmful effects of these restrictions on non-profit organizations and remove the language that jeopardizes our democratic form of government.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
MARINA**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Marina on the 30th anni-

versary of its incorporation. Marina is a young city, particularly in contrast to its neighbor Monterey, founded in 1772. But young, in the case of Marina, is just another word for dynamic.

Marina is located on the shore of Monterey Bay near the mouth of the Salinas River. The area known today as Marina was once owned by David Jacks and James Bardin, who in the mid 1800s owned much of the acreage that now constitutes the Monterey Peninsula. In the early 1900s the area was designated as "Bardin," then "Locke-Paddon Colonies," then "Paddonville." It was at about this time that Southern Pacific Railroad, who had laid tracks through the area, was convinced by the then owner, William Locke-Paddon, to make a flag stop for his customers coming from San Francisco. Locke-Paddon, 1876-1972, is considered the father of Marina, and some of his relatives still live in the region. He renamed the area Marina to boost its attraction as a stop.

As the land was developed, areas were set aside for a school, church and other necessities of an organized city. Marina's first post office was established in April 1919. As with the rest of the Monterey Peninsula, Marina witnessed a tremendous amount of growth and development during the 1950s and 60s—schools, churches, businesses, our community center and residential homes. The area has changed from a quiet rural area into a busy prosperous community. In 1956, the Marina Fire District was formed and Reservation Road began to develop as a commercial area. All through that time Marina served as a gateway to the very active U.S. Army base at Fort Ord.

Marina incorporated as a city in November 1975. At that time I had the pleasure of serving as a Monterey County Supervisor and chaired the County's Local Area Formation Committee, LAFCO, that oversaw the creation of new jurisdictions. I remember Marina civic booster Frank Vineyard coming before the commission in 1975 to argue the case for Marina's creation as a stand alone city. I am proud to have been able to cast a vote as LAFCO chair to form the city of Marina. Frank went on to serve as Marina's first mayor.

Marina has grown over the years and is now taking a leading role in the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord. It is also redeveloping its downtown and has a bright future as not only the gateway to the Monterey Peninsula, but as a destination unto itself. Mr. Speaker, Marina deserves the congratulations of this House for its success to date and best wishes for a future that will surely see the city continue to serve the needs of its diverse residents.

HONORING H. ROSS ARNOLD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on November 9, 2005, Ross Arnold will be honored for his role as a community leader. For more than six decades Mr. Arnold has contributed to our community as a civic and business leader, and we're all better for his work.

Mr. Arnold's distinguished career began with his service in the United States Navy. The

youngest man who had ever earned the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the Navy, after his military career in 1946 he joined Nashville Tent and Awning and was the company's president by the time he retired in 1987. A longtime member of the Lions Club, Mr. Arnold served as a mentor to others by sharing his life experiences.

Mr. Arnold always gave back more than he took from his country and his community. Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Arnold. I am certain his family; his wife of more than sixty years Dorothy, their children, Allison, Melissa and Wayland and their 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren are tremendously proud of this much deserved recognition and thanks from our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes 555 and 556 on October 28, 2005, because I was unavoidably detained on official homeland security policy business in Atlanta, Georgia. Had I been present I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall No. 555, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 556, I would have voted "yea."

COMMENDING UPPER GREENWOOD
LAKE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE
CORPS**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Upper Greenwood Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps in New Jersey's fifth Congressional district on 50 years of excellent service to our community. Located in West Milford in northern New Jersey, this brave group of selfless residents has been saving lives since being founded on June 2, 1955.

A great community effort, the Upper Greenwood Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps was started with the assistance of a weekend resident and a loan from a local business owner. Residents helped maintain the first ambulance, a 1947 Cadillac, and cleared the land for the headquarters with assistance from local business.

Today, volunteers spend countless hours training in life-saving and learning how to use advanced equipment. Volunteers also raise money to defer the costs of ambulance care for needy residents,

For their great dedication to the cause of saving lives, I praise the Upper Greenwood Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps and wish them another 50 years and beyond of outstanding response to medical emergencies.